From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Sun Jul 21 00:12:00 1996
From: wa5whn@ix.netcom.com (Jay Miller)
Subject: [1321] 10 GHz/QRPp/Comments
Message-ID: <199607201421.HAA29913@dfw-ix11.ix.netcom.com>

Dear QRP Compadres,

I have been receiving quite a few inquiries about 10 GHz, GOOD !!! Probably one of the best documents, about this subject, is "The ARRL UHF/Microwave Projects Manual", available from the ARRL & we just happen to have a 10+ GHz expert (I am no expert, that is why I am playing with it.) on the QRP-L, KH6CP/1 Zack. With the advent of surplus dishes (since everyone seems to be headed to DSS) & lots of alarm Companies are dumping 2+ GHz alarm systems (great rcv & tx parts). It's just a natural, for people like us, (Scroungers) to play in this part of the spectrum. I have only talked to one other Person on 10 GHz, in the greater Albuquerque area, but I would think that those of You, in the higher population density areas (West Coast, East Coast) might be interested in pursuing this part of the spectrum.

Since we just happen to have "real" Mountains in our part of the World, UHF/Microwave can be quite a bit of fun. So, is anyone interested in Microwave kits ? It is QRPp.

I am only a voice of 1, from the Southwest.

Second Subject: QRP Field Day in Feb. (Winter in the Northern Hemisphere) (BIG HINT to the Arizona scQRPions). Count me in, how can I help ? How about "Freeze My Buns in the Sun, QRP with me", as a label ??? ;-) Someone from Canada had suggested multipliers for the temperature dropping below zero F, in that local, or someone from down under (ZL, VK, et al) could ask for temp multipliers above 100 degrees F. Again, how can I help ? Please, don't interfere with the Colorado QRP Winter Sprint, which is in Feb.. One thing is for sure, I will be definitely be looking for Comet Hale-Bopp then too. (Any multiplier for that ?) How about a prize for the most newcomers (never been on a FD, or seen QRP before) operating @ a site ?

Count me in (10 GHz & the proposed Az. "FMBitS" QRP FD.)

72...Jay, WA5WHN

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Sun Jul 21 00:12:00 1996
From: John Shuster <jshuster@silverlink.net>
Subject: [1341] FS: Backpacker II - $60 ppd
Message-ID: <199607210347.UAA09504@oly.olympic.net>

-- [From: John Shuster * EMC.Ver #2.5.02] --

To all:

I have a constructed Backpacker II currently set up for 30 meters.

Included are components to convert it to 40M and 17M, and the manual.

I'll pay UPS shipping to continental USA. $60.

Too many rigs.

John
KC7CKP

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Sun Jul 21 00:12:00 1996
From: wb0poq@visi.com (Bob Liesenfeld)
Subject: [1340] Heath GR-78
Message-ID: <199607210320.WAA18074@mixer.visi.com>

Hi,
   I'm looking for a schematic/manual for a Heathkit GR-78 receiver. I'll pay costs etc.
Thanks!

   Bob   WB0POQ

wb0poq@visi.com
Bob L.   wb0poq@visi.com

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Sun Jul 21 00:12:00 1996
From: Charles Brown <maf00035@maf.mobile.al.us>
Subject: [1320] Latitude/Longitude
Message-ID: <Pine.SOL.3.91.960720085129.15334A-100000@ns1>

Latitude /// Longitude and Grid square???
The negative number at Longitude means "west" Longitude in decimal format.
To look up Latitude and Longitude, use the Buckmaster CD Callbook database.
See the County line near the bottom.
The last line is the Grid square.
On the air stations such as YV4FF 14.067 mark have the Buckmaster operating--

the command is   PC (callsign)
============

KE4OCN No code Technician
James B Sallee
5161 Gilgal Way
Ellenwood, GA 30049-3774
Born Sep 25, 1953
License expires Jul 14, 2004
County: Clayton Latitude: 33.617750 Longitude: -84.27180
Grid square EM73UO Area code 404
------------- Using the Buckmaster CD Callbook ----------------

de N4SO
Ken

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Sun Jul 21 00:12:00 1996
From: emaaro@pacbell.net
Subject: [1339] Need phone/address of Toko America
Message-ID: <31F26A3D.521C@pacbell.net>

Hi Paul:
I'm enjoying your Data Book for Homebrewers and QRPers. What an excellent effort you've put into this book. It really shows an outstanding effort! I have some Toko IF transformers that I've forgotten what they are. I need to contact Toko America to find out if I can use them in a 30Mtr Transceiver. Thank you very much. Again what an outstanding effort on your data book.
72s, Earl, AB6CN

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Sun Jul 21 00:12:00 1996
From: jim hale <kj5tf@mctc.com>
Subject: [1328] New England QRP Afield
Message-ID: <12D3C29F.3433@mctc.com>

I would like to hear details about the NE QRP Afield Sept 21st.

Looks like a one day affair, whats the exchange?
The NORCAL QRP to the field was so much fun, I gotta try FALL in the field. Boy, we need something like this to get through the summer heat!

Still looking for address for GU/DL5LYM   thanks! Jim kj5tf@mctc.com

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Sun Jul 21 00:12:00 1996
From: svecbrdk@well.com (Lillian Svec and Wayne Burdick)
Subject: [1332] New micro-size noise blanker design ready; need volunteers
Message-ID: <199607202141.OAA11181@mh1.well.com>

To the QRN-impared, from N6KR:

I've finally completed my new noise-blanker design. I'll have silk-screened and solder-masked PC boards in hand early next week. This is an improved version of my "Simple Noiseblanker for NE602-Based Receivers" that appeared in QRPp.

This version is only 0.6" by 1.1" (REALLY small!) and is tailored for the NorCal 40A and Sierra, although it should work in some other rigs that use a similar receiver input circuit. I've only tested it with the '40A and Sierra.

The circuit uses a broad-band RF amp with manual gain control, and a true pulse detector, biased so that the noise blanking action begins at very low noise levels. The pulse detector works great: by shutting off the detector for a while after a noise spike comes in, you eliminate some of the problem with large signals swamping the detector. Provisions for turning off the detector via a DC control signal are included for rigs that use receive monitoring.

This circuit gets its signal from the RF input to the receive mixer--not the I.F. This was necessary to keep the circuit small and simple and eliminate any need to modify the rig. In the case of the '40A and Sierra, only four connections are needed.

What this noiseblanker does NOT work on, like all switching-type blankers, is atmospheric noise. Also, due to the simplicity of the circuit, it won't cure ALL repetitive noise problems. Some noise sources put out closely-spaced multiple pulses, noise bursts, etc., or have rise times or rep rates that the circuit can't handle. And don't expect the same performance as the I.F.-derived noiseblanker on your big rig.

Still, I've found the little unit indespensible--it almost always removes some noise, and most of the time does a great job, especially on 160-20 meters.

What I need now are a few volunteers who have some kind of local A.C. line-noise problem, or some other loud, repetitive, ugly noise that occasionally prevents them from hearing QRP signals. Since my target rigs for now are the '40A and Sierra, I'd like to restrict the volunteer pool to owners of these rigs. Later, we'll try it on other rigs.

Let me emphasize that I'm NOT looking for those with once-a-month QRN. I'm looking for operators who would kill for a noiseblanker on their QRP rig, because local QRN takes out the whole station--frequently. This is the kind of noise that I'd like to test the unit on.

Any takers? PLEASE INCLUDE:

- a description of your noise situation in detail
- theories about where the noise comes from
- what you've tried
- whether your big rig's noiseblanker works
- what filter bandwidths you use, and whether bandwidth affects the noise level

By the way, this MIGHT become a Wilderness kit, and if it does, it will be very soon. It will probably be called the "BuzzNot," and it will probably be < $20. However, please DON'T call Wilderness because they ain't ready yet! This is my own personal field test operation. I'll be doing the manual and kits myself and will summarize the results for QRP-L.

I've been optimizing the "BuzzNot" for quite awhile now, and hope that it helps solve at least some of the noise problem that afflicts QRP operation with typical '602-based receiver designs. I've read many a complaint here on the net!

Please respond ONLY to my home e-mail address, svecbrdk@well.com (from which I'm writing).

Thanks!

73,
Wayne
N6KR

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Sun Jul 21 00:12:00 1996
From: VINCENT PROVENZA <vprovenza@worldnet.att.net>
Subject: [1325] novice band
Message-ID: <199607201553.PAA23915@mailhost.worldnet.att.net>

i have just bombed another 13 wpm code test. this was the third. did not have a problem with the 5 wpm, when i took it. any suggestions on how to get my speed up. any suggestions on which of the novice bands are the best to get practice on?

thanks in advance
73 vince (KF4CEZ)

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Sun Jul 21 00:12:00 1996
From: Joe Gervais <vole@primenet.com>
Subject: [1317] QRP + Hamstick + 30m = Japan
Message-ID: <199607201005.DAA27801@primenet.com>

Howdy All,

Sunspots... Feh! Who needs 'em! :-)

(whump whump whump) That's me, jumping for joy. My family's asleep and the cats don't care, so I figured I'd bother all of you instead.

Just finished working my first "real" DX, JG3UVN. Wahoo!!! I was using my QRP+ and a new Hamstick setup - I have an antenna mount on the corner of my patio cover (up about 8 ft) and six raised radials (2 each for 20/30/40m quarter wave). I just screw in whichever Hamstick I need for the band of interest. I'm hoping to put in a total of eight raised radials, each a quarter wave for 40m, but all I had handy at the time were my 20m, 30m, and 40m dipoles. Their sacrifice will be remembered. :-)

Now perhaps some of you DX veterans can help shed some light on something for me. Hiro was sending his call as JG3UVN/3. I must've checked it a dozen times while I was "stalking" him so it definitely wasn't a case of me screwing up a number. But why would a 3-call send /3?

I believe someone on the list was asking about raised verticals and QRP. My first three QSOs with the 30m Hamstick/radial setup have been MN, VA, and now Japan (or somewhere close by - Shiga isn't in my world atlas). It seems to work for me!

A thousand thanks again to Chuck for starting this whole TMPS thing. For those interested, a slew of JA's popped up between 10120-10130 KHz at around 0700 UTC, but they weren't very strong until about 0900 UTC (2AM local), which is when I worked Hiro. As of 0930 UTC, they're *all* gone. Hmmm....

Even at five watts, I think I finally got my 1000 miles/watt award! I'll have to get one to Hiro too... Can you send those

via the Buro?

Cheers de KC7NEV,

-Joe, vole@primenet.com, AZ ScQRPion #7

KC7NEV TMPS 1996 Qs=014 States=9 Confirmed=2 DX=001
AK, CA, CO, KS, LA, MN, OR, WA, VA
JG

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Sun Jul 21 00:12:00 1996
From: iapizloj@bicc00.bi.ehu.es (jon Iza)
Subject: [1314] QRPP: Stop Whining!
Message-ID: <9607200829.AA17526@bicc00.bi.ehu.es>

To the folks continuously whining about his/her QRPp not getting to his/her place:
I got my QRPp in Spain in 5 days after being mailed from California. That makes beginning of June? Right?
You get what you pay for! My subscription to QRPp runs twice as much as yours (20 bucks DX vs. 10 bucks US, if I remember well). So I guess, for those of you who cannot wait to get QRPP earlier than anyone else, you'll probably will make Jim and Doug very happy sending them 20 bucks. You'll get
shifted to the DX block, and they will get some extra money for more projects and more goodies. They will be happy, you will be happy and we all at the list will be happy as all these messages will disappear.
If my experience can show anything to anyone, I get most of the journasl (a lot of them :-) by surface mail. Thant means about two months. Most of the time that lag helps me a lot to get in trouble trying to build something right from the journal pages. When it gets here I have about two months worth of feedback, hints, erratas, comments, "four letter words", and so on. That way I have, most of the time, made my mind up about building it or trashing it. This is one of the benefits I get from the situation. Please, you too, do so!
Be well,
jon, ea2sn

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Sun Jul 21 00:12:00 1996
From: msdooley@rdxsunhost.aud.alcatel.com (Michael S. Dooley)
Subject: [1336] red straight key
Message-ID: <9607202327.AA17556@collie.aud.alcatel.com>

John,

I'd be interested also. I got the description and photo in the mail the other day, but don't remember asking for it. It is an interesting looking key, though.
Mike N5BGZ

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Sun Jul 21 00:12:00 1996
From: AE0Q / V31RY <v31ry@ix.netcom.com>
Subject: [1330] Transmitter offset
Message-ID: <2.2.16.19960720142246.2a8f38b4@popd.ix.netcom.com>

>Aligning the transmitter offset
>as described above may seem like a lot of trouble, but if you
>don't do it you may find that you have difficulty in hearing people answering
>your CQ, and stations calling CQ seem to ignore your responses. As QRP rigs
>have more narrow and efficient filtering than many "big rigs" the problem is
>exaggerated, and a weak signal that is 100Hz off frequency is often going to
>be missed..
>
>73
>Marshall
>AA0XI/VK5FN

This is definately a problem with home-built QRP rigs! During the April QRP-To-The-Field outing, I used my TS-450s, running 5w.. I had to constantly sweep across my frequency with the RIT when calling CQ (or use split VFO's), because of the many stations answering outside the passband of my 400Hz IF filter. That's a long way from zero-beat!

As a comparison, the same radio was used on Field Day, frequently with the 270Hz filter in because of the extra QRM.. I seldom used the RIT, and found that almost all stations answered in the narrow passband (and worked 5 times as many stations as in QRP-TTF)..
To explain the big difference in on-frequency responses, I'd guess that most Field Day stations were using commercial transceivers, with offsets matching their IF shift..

Adjusting the transmit offset correctly will definately help get more responses!!

73 -- Glenn

Duct Tape is like the Force: It has a light side, and a dark side,
and it holds the Universe together.

AE0Q / V31RY ex: GM5BKC, ZB2WZ, SV0WY, WA0VPK
v31ry@ix.netcom.com -- ARRL LM, QCWA LM, NCVA --

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Sun Jul 21 00:12:00 1996
From: "Thomas J. Whalen" <whalen@swcp.com>
Subject: [1324] winter FD
Message-ID: <Pine.SUN.3.91.960720093459.18753B-100000@kitsune.swcp.com>

Hi All ! The idea of a winter FD certainly appeals to me! How about using a 260' half wave wire held up by a balloon or a kite antenna for 160mtrs.Ive done both, and its an antenna that is hard to beat.I did loose a balloon to a BB gun....kid down the street thought it would be neat to shoot it.! Also had balloon get away trailing a 300 ft wire over a near by 10400 ft mountain.Should have put a return address on the balloon! Hey, Chuck K5FO have you talked to anyone about a good kite to use? Wanna fly another kite in 50mph winds?I
Tom WB5QYT (new qrp fan)

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Sun Jul 21 00:12:00 1996
From: Bensondj@aol.com
Subject: [1322] Winter Field Day
Message-ID: <960720110417_438222624@emout17.mail.aol.com>

>>From: ljones@why.net (ljones)
>> Hey gang, I would be interested in a winter field day.

I've been threatening for years to go portable for the ARRL 160M contest (and never following through, naturally). This activity takes place in early December, and if nothing else, would provide *plenty* of QSOs at night. My last foray into this event yielded about 60 QSOs with an SW-160 and a compromise antenna. I'd sure like to find out, though, what I could do with a real skywire.

73- Dave, NN1G

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Sun Jul 21 00:12:00 1996
From: CHARLIE LOFGREN <CLOFGREN@BENSON.MCKENNA.EDU>
Subject: [1313] z-match comparison (long)
Message-ID: <01I79V53KF7M005Q5O@BENSON.MCKENNA.EDU>

w6emt de w6jjz (and cc qrp-l)

Roy--

Well, I whipped up a z-match following the circuit in SPRAT that you referenced, and have run the efficiency/balance tests on it.

Before getting to the numbers (and comparsion figures for one of my z-matches), a few notes:

I followed the SPRAT design except for the plastic variable capacitors. (The only two I have are in my own little mini unit.)

The input capacitor I used is an air variable of 365 pf. This should have no effect on the performance, except for extending the matching range a bit beyond what you'd get with a 250 pf unit.

The tank circuit capacitor is a dual unit, 460 pf per section, air variable. This gives more range on one end, but also has a higher minimum capacitance than in the little plastic units, which may limit tuning options on 30 and 20 meters. On those bands, it's best to tune at the high frequency end of the low frequency range, if possible, rather than the low frequency end of the high frequency range.

The JJZ z-match I used for comparison also has air variables. (My little unit with plastic caps, with their lower minimum capacitance, is wee bit more efficient than the comparison unit.)

The loss figures you'll find below are of course illusory in their precision. Frank Witt's testing procedure, which I used, depends on an SWR analyzer that is accurate to one decimal place in the vicinity of 2.0:1 swr. (If it's reading 2.0:1 when the true SWR is 1.9:1, for example, then the resulting loss figure may be off anywhere from less than 0.1 dB to several tenths of a dB, or more in some cases.) I've calibrated my Autek RF-1, so that the raw SWR figures I generated (from which the loss figures are calculated) are probably accurate within one decimal place, but the calibration conversion is affected by the reactive part of the impedance that the analyzer works with, so it's not perfect. (For Frank's procedure, see QST for April 1995.)

In some instances, loss is indicated as 0.0 dB. Of course, in these instances there's some loss, but the instrumentation doesn't pick it up. In other cases, the loss is probably underestimated, but at least the error is systematic, so the comparison is fairly valid.

A "---" indicates that the unit would not give at least a 1.1:1 match, and hence the tests could not be run.

The numbers in parenthesis are the balance figures. They indicate the current on one side of the feedline as a percent of the current on the other side. (Thus 100% is perfect balance.) Here I'm using the technique that Frank Witt has included in a forthcoming article in volume 5 of the ARRL Antenna Compendium, which refines the balance test he presented in his article in QST, April 1995.

After the results, I'll offer a few observations.

Here are the measured/calculated results: (I didn't do any measurements for 10 meters.)

SPRAT design (Autumn 1995):

	Output impedance--ohms (pure resistance)				
Freq	12.5	50	200	800	3200
3.5	---	---	0.33 dB (100)	0.88 dB (100)	2.84 dB (100)
7.0	0.0 (100)	0.0 (100)	0.31 (100)	0.95 (82)	1.91 (43)
10.1	0.41 (100)	0.0 (82)	0.49 (100)	1.84 (67)	3.54 (82)
14.0	0.49 (100)	0.16 (100)	0.16 (100)	0.95 (67)	2.41) (67)
21.0	0.95 (100)	0.97 (82)	0.49 (100)	0.95 (47)	2.41 (54)

JJZ design (QRP Quarterly, July 1995):

Output impedance--ohms (pure resistance)

	12.5	50	200	800	3200
Freq					
3.5	---	0.02 dB (100)	0.16 dB (100)	0.33 dB (100)	1.34 dB (100)
7.0	0.02 (100)	0.0 (100)	0.0 (100)	0.55 (100)	0.49 (100)
10.1	0.49 (100)	0.16 (100)	0.0 (100)	0.31 (100)	0.88 (100)
14.0	0.55 (100)	0.31 (100)	0.31 (100)	0.31 (100)	0.95 (100)
21.0	1.13 (100)	0.67 (100)	0.49 (100)	0.67 (100)	2.31 (100)

Comments:

The JJZ design has better output balance and higher efficiency with high impedance loads. Otherwise, things are something of a toss-up, given probable measurement error.

Were I to tweek either circuit:

In the SPRAT circuit, I'd include the option of switching in another section of the input capacitor. This would give more range on 80 meters, and would also help on the higher bands where the presence of reactance in the load might put the load out of the range of the tuner.

As indicated in my previous note, in the SPRAT design I'd also substitute a T-130-6 core for the T-130-2 core. This would require a little adjustment in the number of turns, but would give slightly better Q. The results would be hard to measure, true, but since the cost is the same, why not go with the theoretically better core?

In the JJZ design, I'd play around with the low impedance link,

checking whether a 6 turn link would give a few tenths of a dB less loss with some loads, without unduly compromising the low end of the matching range (which presently takes in lower impedances than the above tests assessed).

If I were to do a hybrid of the two designs, I'd probably include the option of a switching in a second section of the input capacitor. I'd use the tank circuit arrangement of the JJZ design, but only one output link, of probably 8 turns (maybe 6, but that might unduly hurt at high impedances).

Would the station at the other end notice any of these variations? Generally not, but my inclination in QRP design is to minimize losses, even small ones, and my inclination in tuner design is to maximize matching range, particularly if you're likely to use the tuner with somewhat unpredictable field antennas.

72,

Charlie, w6jjz
clofgren@benson.mckenna.edu

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Sun Jul 21 00:12:00 1996
From: JCoote@aol.com
Subject: [1338] Re: Antenna Tuner Designs?
Message-ID: <960720205423_438460404@emout07.mail.aol.com>

In a message dated 96-07-19 14:56:00 EDT, glenk@dsg.tandem.com (kimitsuka_glen) writes:

>Hi All;
> I have a few generic replacement 10-365pf air variable caps for the old
> five tube radios. Anyone ever seen a tuner design based on these?
> Something close I could adapt?
>
>Tnx, Glen KM6WR

There are three designs which come to mind:

The easiest to build is the L network. A tapped 0-20 or 0-30 uH coil arranged in series with a random wire antenna. The capacitor is connected between the antenna (output) and the chassis (ground). A good, simple tuner for single wire antennas.

Another common design seen in hundreds of ham projects is the T network. In

the T, the two variable caps are in series with the antenna so they must be isolated from chassis (ground).. a little more work. The T may provide wider matching range, high and low Z when the L (above) is more suited to medium and higher Z found on random wires. Ham manufacturer's claims of a T tuner as a TVI filter are overrated since in most settings this network is highpass.

The PI network could be considered an electronic "opposite" of the T in that it has a low-pass response in most settings. Also, it is much easier to build since the variables are connected from the input (coax) to chassis and the antenna (output) to chassis.

There are many variations of the three tuners. The main thing is to have sufficient inductance (30 uH?) and capacitance (350 pF?) so the tuner will match more than a 50 ohm dummyload only on 20 meters and above.

A small L-network tuner I built around a 350 pF 'broadcast' cap seemed to work well on CW under 5 watts. There may be a problem with higher RF powers and SSB arcing these capacitors, but I have never given one the smoke test.

73, Jay
WB6AAM

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Sun Jul 21 00:12:00 1996
From: "L. B. Cebik" <cebik@utkux.utcc.utk.edu>
Subject: [1331] Re: Falling price of the RS DSP unit
Message-ID: <Pine.SOL.3.94.960720172404.26212A-100000@utkux4.utcc.utk.edu>

First, we heard that the Radio Shack DSP unit was under $50, then under $40, then under $35. Stopped by a store today. Apparently it was national RS sidwalk sale day to clear out all merchandise no longer on the catalog list. Saw a DSP (21-543) marked $34.95. However, the computer with all the prices in it only charged me $29.95 (plus tax, of course). At that new low price, the unit certainly is worth playing with, just to find out what it is that DSP will do that analog cannot or will not do or do as well, if anything.

But, I got the store's last unit, and a while back they did not have one that they knew about. So for those wanting to try out a DSP before investing in one costing 10 times the price, the time is short before the very last unit disappears. But if you get the very last unit, maybe you will only pay $15.95 (plus tax) for it.

This is not an ad for RS, since I have not plugged in my unit yet. Just wanted to alert folks to the sale just in case they were interested.

-73-

LB, W4RNL

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Sun Jul 21 00:12:00 1996
From: pcw12@ix.netcom.com (Phil Wheeler)
Subject: [1334] Re: Falling price of the RS DSP unit
Message-ID: <199607202159.OAA21308@dfw-ix1.ix.netcom.com>

The RS DSP unit is not without value. I own one and gave one to a friend. BUT the following:

1) For QRP (or any CW) the Oak Hills SCAF (switched capacitance audio filter) is a much better device (more selectivity, MUCH lower power consumption..abt 60 ma vs. 600 ma).

2) I also own a JPS NIR-12 which I use primarily on SSB and data modes (Pactor, Gtor, RTTY, Packet) on HF. It is like magic! The RS does not come close. Of course I paid 10 times the price.

Conclusion: The RS DSP at the sale price is a very good value; I bought two, on for my ham pal and one for me. It will work well on CW (but not for battery ops in my opinion). It will get rid of hetrodynes on SSB. BUT if you buy one and think DSP is not worthwhile, that is the WRONG conclusion. The state-of-art DSP units are amazing!

Phil W7UOX

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Sun Jul 21 00:12:00 1996
From: k7yha@juno.com (richard h. arland)
Subject: [1335] Re: Falling price of the RS DSP unit
Message-ID: <19960720.231719.4431.8.k7yha@juno.com>

On Sat, 20 Jul 1996 17:32:03 -0400 (EDT) "L. B. Cebik" <cebik@utkux.utcc.utk.edu> writes:
>However, the computer with all the prices in it only charged me $29.95 (plus tax, of
>course). At that new low price, the unit certainly is worth playing with, just
>to find out what it is that DSP will do that analog cannot or will not

do
>or do as well, if anything.
>

The RS DSP unit is well worth the paltry sum of $30! REALIZING that on CW this unit functions as an active AF filter NOT a DSP unit (chk K1RS' review in QST, Jun 1994, I think).

I use mine for an external speaker. Today I set up at a local hamfest. Had the Sierra plugged into the Outback's power, ran the Hamstick off the roof rack and used the DSP to provide listenable audio to those who came up to my table to talk QRP. The CW portion of the filter does work well, just realize that it does not use any DSP algorithms.

>But, I got the store's last unit, and a while back they did not have one
>that they knew about.

Seldom do the employees of ANY R-S store know what they actually have in stock. The computer is only as accurate as those who do the monthly inventory and, having prostituted myself for a while working for R-S, I KNOW for a fact that inventories are not the high point of any sales associate's day! Therefore, corners are cut and, more often than not, things get missed....BIG things in some cases.

Several years ago, when R-S was closing out their PRO-2006 scanners (the last good ones they ever sold) I had several managers check their stocks and the stocks of stores in the areas and none were found. About 2 weeks later, I get a phone call from a manager in a store who told me that he had one laying on the floor, it was not on his inventory, did I want it? I said "no" cuz I'd already located a used one from another guy in the area. Anyway, point is, R-S stores have know clue to what they have. Therefore, make them LOOK in the back room, don't rely on the computer.

72 rich K7YHA

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Sun Jul 21 00:12:00 1996
From: William Hansgen <102762.1311@CompuServe.COM>
Subject: [1319] Re: Feb FD
Message-ID: <960720125406_102762.1311_GHU58-2@CompuServe.COM>

ljones@why.net (ljones) wrote:

>Greetings Gang...

>   Hey gang, I would be interested in a winter field day. I have often
>thought that a winter field day is something to try. After all, not all
>emergencies happen in the summer months. Let's give it a try this coming
>Feb. Any takers back east???

Greetings,

     There are a few of us here in southeastern Ohio willing to participate. Since you are refering to this as a field "day", I guess you have a 24 hour operation in mind. After all, many emergencies must take at least that long to resolve.

     Since Art Modell ripped my heart out by stealing away with my Browns, you could have this event on Super Bowl Sunday for all I care.

     Good idea, Larry.

72 de Mike/AA8EB

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Sun Jul 21 00:12:00 1996
From: wb2vuo@juno.com (William K Hibbert)
Subject: [1326] Re: Feb. FD
Message-ID: <19960720.115135.11287.0.wb2vuo@juno.com>

>In a message dated 96-07-19 11:14:08 EDT, you write:

>> How about this for a scoring system for a Winter FD ??
>>
>> POWER   POINTS, Phone   POINTS, CW
>>
>> 0.01 - 0.5 watts   25 points/QSO   50 points/QSO
>> 0.5 - 1 watts 10 points/QSO   20 points/QSO
>> 1 - 5 watts   5 points/ QSO   10 points/QSO
>> 5 - 150 watts   1 point/QSO   2 points/QSO
>> 150 - 1500 watts   -- CHECK LOG, Been Nice Knowing Ya! --
>>

>I love the scoring system. What do you say, let's propose a rules change
to
>ARRL? Best 72 es CUL de John N2QCE

--------- End forwarded message ----------
Actually, I had considered posting it as a suggestion for the June Field
Day, too, but thought it might not be recieved well. I guess I should
forward this to Newington. It might not be received well there either,
but who knows???

72/73, Keith, WB2VUO, QRP-L # 582
[From the Depths of the Great Bergen Swamp...FN13ac]

wb2vuo@juno.com

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Sun Jul 21 00:12:00 1996
From: Bob Patten <n4bp@shadow.net>
Subject: [1329] Re: Feb. FD
Message-ID: <Pine.SOL.3.91.960720143548.15132A-100000@hyper>

On Sat, 20 Jul 1996, William K Hibbert wrote:

> >I love the scoring system. What do you say, let's propose a rules change
> to
> >ARRL? Best 72 es CUL de John N2QCE
>
> --------- End forwarded message ----------
> Actually, I had considered posting it as a suggestion for the June Field
> Day, too, but thought it might not be recieved well. I guess I should
> forward this to Newington. It might not be received well there either,
> but who knows???
>
Not a very practical idea. Under the present rules, if you check the
results from any past Field Day, you will see that the QRP entries always
skunk the 100 watt entries - at least the single transmitter. Since QRP
already has the advantage, a proposed rules change such as this should
not be received well...

Bob Patten, N4BP
n4bp@shadow.net

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Sun Jul 21 00:12:00 1996
From: "L. B. Cebik" <cebik@utkux.utcc.utk.edu>
Subject: [1333] Re: Feb. FD
Message-ID: <Pine.SOL.3.94.960720173414.26212B-100000@utkux4.utcc.utk.edu>

> How about this for a scoring system for a Winter FD ??

>
> POWER   POINTS, Phone   POINTS, CW
>
> 0.01 - 0.5 watts   25 points/QSO   50 points/QSO
> 0.5 - 1 watts   10 points/QSO   20 points/QSO
> 1 - 5 watts   5 points/QSO   10 points/QSO
> 5 - 150 watts   1 point/QSO   2 points/QSO
> 150 - 1500 watts   -- CHECK LOG, Been Nice Knowing Ya! --

Before committing this in stone, why not run this scheme through one or more analyses. For example, it might be revised to let the points reflect the power advantage in dB above the base line. For example, if you let the high power limit be 100 watts with a QSO point value of 1, then a power level 30 dB below that gets 30 points per QSO. If 20 dB below the baseline, then 20 point per QSO.

This may or may not be a fair way to calculate point values, but it is a little more consistent across the power span than the uneven steps in the above proposal. Other ways to analyze the power avantage might come up with other schemes, and some may be even fairer. The cheif advantage of the dB below a baseline is that one simply counts QSOs and uses the power difference to the baseline in dB as a multiplier. This way, stations running more than 100 watts output could compete, but with a negative multiplier. 1000 watts is 10 dB greater than the baseline, so the QSO score is divided by 10.

Also, this way, someone running 1.1 watts output will not be tempted to cheat and call it 0.95 watts to get that stepped rise in point value.

There may be other ways to achieve fairness. Wonder what they might be.

-73-

LB, W4RNL

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Sun Jul 21 00:12:00 1996
From: Silvio Cerati <scerati@lrcser.lrcser.it>
Subject: [1315] Re: Gluing toroids
Message-ID: <199607200917.KAA24669@lrcser.lrcser.it>

At 15:08 07:19:1996 -0700, Mike Boice wrote:
>What does everyone use (other than commercial coil dope) to hold coil
>windings in place? I didn't find any commercial coil dope locally, and
>don't want to wait for the mail to order some. I've got some coils to wind

>for an ATU, power supply and NW30, and I'd like to glue the windings this
>weekend.
>
>Or, maybe I should ask: how many people even bother to glue the windings in
>place at all?
>
>73,
>mike KD0FX
>Richland WA QRP-L #576
>
>
>
Hi Mike,
try with clear nail lacquer, if you want a good but not so hard to remove
item. If you
like to have a more robust and forget forever use two components epoxy resin
the variety you like the best (slow or fast curing). By
73 Silvio i1SU

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Sun Jul 21 00:12:00 1996
From: adams@chuck.dallas.sgi.com (chuck adams)
Subject: [1323] Re: Gluing toroids
Message-ID: <199607201519.PAA07093@chuck.dallas.sgi.com>

Mike,

Use clear fingernail polish and look for it on sale at any of the
cheap discount supermarts.

IMHO I think the only time it is absolutely necessary to nail down
the windings is in a harsh environment like mobile QRP work. Just
how much trouble can you get into with the rig sitting on the desk
in an airconditioned room?

dit dit
--
Chuck Adams (K5FO CP-60) adams@sgi.com
K5FO   TMPS 1996 Qs=055 States=27 Confirmed=16 DX=02 (0.95W)
AL AZ CA CO DC DE FL GA IA IL IN MD MI MO
NC OH OK OR SD TN TX UT WA WI WV WY

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Sun Jul 21 00:12:00 1996
From: Hank Kohl <k8dd@tir.com>

Subject: [1318] Re: QRP + Hamstick + 30m = Japan
Message-ID: <199607201041.GAA12249@tir.com>

At 03:05 07/20/96 -0700, you wrote:
> (deleted)
>Hiro was sending his call as JG3UVN/3.
>I must've checked it a dozen times while I was "stalking" him
>so it definitely wasn't a case of me screwing up a number. But
>why would a 3-call send /3?
>

Possibly he was in the third call area and portable. We used to
have to do that, back in the "old days".

>Can you send those
>via the Buro?
>
Sure, but it could take up to a year to get a return back. If
you REALLY want it, I'd send it airmail with a SAE (self addressed
envelope) and a couple of IRC's or put a buck or two in it to
pay for the return postage. Depends how bad you want a card from
your first JA on 30M!

73   Hank   K8DD

*/   Hank Kohl K8DD   k8dd@tir.com
*/   MI-QRP - Vice Pres. QRP-ARCI - Director
*/   G-QRP   ARRL/LM   QCWA/LM   QCAO/LM

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Sun Jul 21 00:12:00 1996
From: "Phil, AC6LS" <ac6ls@amsat.org>
Subject: [1316] Re: Static discharges & Lightning protection
Message-ID: <31F0A04E.176D@amsat.org>

Dan Hogan wrote:
>
> Those "Puffballs" are called static eliminators. They reduce static build up
> on metallic surfaces, sort of. They are used on aircraft. As it was we
> experienced at least 2-3 hits a year on 747's, which normally cruise above
> the weather.

Static eliminators AKA- Static Dischargers these help reduce the build up of
static electricity in the Aircraft. These realy do work, mostly for improving
the radio comunications. I have seen the damage that lightning can do to the
airplane (have even had to "fix" the damage) also I have seen the effects of

lightning stikes on the dischargers themselves (these are usually made up of aluminum base and either a graphite or plastic extension.) where the metal base or the tip was melted to a great extent. Other rare occasions, I have seen damage like holes blown clear thru metal and composite panels.

so, ground your equipment and house, and if you do mobile ops, finding some way of discharging static electricity from your vehicle may be of some help.

73 de Phil AC6LS

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Sun Jul 21 00:12:00 1996
From: "Robert J. Gobrick" <rgobrick@nfld.com>
Subject: [1337] Re: Transmitter offset
Message-ID: <2.2.32.19960720224913.00ac94cc@public.compusult.nf.ca>

Building Gang,

I'd also like to suggest that folks who build the many kits that are out there spend a few seconds making sure your transmit offset etc is "on the money" as Marshall and Glenn suggest.

I usually double check this offset by running my newly completed xcvr kit into a dummy load and monitoring the signal on one of my "bigger" commercial rigs that is also connected to a dummy load. By sending signals to and from both rigs you can pretty much get the rigs on freq (assuming your "big" commercial rig has it's offset correct). Also when things get dull as the bands close down for the evening you can practice carrying on a QSO with yourself - hi).

This offset issue came into play during the QRP ARCI HB Sprint last weekend. I had to switch gears when I popped the final on my OHR-400 with static problems and had to bring my "big" Icom IC-706 on line with it's 250 hz cw filter. Needless to say I'd say a good third of the QRP stations I worked had their offset not correct (or maybe 1/3 were correct and 2/3 and myself were incorrect).

Have fun 73/72 Bob VO1DRB/WA6ERB

At 13:22 7/20/96 -0700, you wrote:
>>Aligning the transmitter offset
>>as described above may seem like a lot of trouble, but if you
>>don't do it you may find that you have difficulty in hearing people answering
>>your CQ, and stations calling CQ seem to ignore your responses. As QRP rigs
>>have more narrow and efficient filtering than many "big rigs" the problem is
>>exaggerated, and a weak signal that is 100Hz off frequency is often going to
>>be missed..

>>
>>73
>>Marshall
>>AA0XI/VK5FN
>
> This is definately a problem with home-built QRP rigs! During the April
>QRP-To-The-Field outing, I used my TS-450s, running 5w.. I had to
>constantly sweep across my frequency with the RIT when calling CQ (or use
>split VFO's), because of the many stations answering outside the passband of
>my 400Hz IF filter. That's a long way from zero-beat!
.....
>
> Adjusting the transmit offset correctly will definately help get more
>responses!!
>
>73 -- Glenn

 ____
| Bob Gobrick - VO1DRB/WA6ERB/VE2DRB - Newfoundland, Canada |
| QRPer Galore - ARCI, GQRP, NORCAL, NEQRP, COQRP, MIQRP, NWQRP |
| Internet: rgobrick@nfld.com |
| bgobrick@nlnet.nf.ca |
| Compuserve: 70466.1405@compuserve.com |
|____|

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Sun Jul 21 00:12:00 1996
From: Clark Savage Turner WA3JPG <turner@safety.ICS.UCI.EDU>
Subject: [1327] Re: Winter Field Day
Message-ID: <16745.837880161@safety.ics.uci.edu>

>   I've been threatening for years to go portable for the ARRL 160M contest
> (and never following through, naturally). This activity takes place in early
> December, and if nothing else, would provide *plenty* of QSOs at night. My
....

You know, this is a wonderful idea. I really enjoy 160 during the
contest, it is magic.

Clark
WA3JPG